

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8449

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0566

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PE, US

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ENTRY TO WALTER REED BY FORMER
PRESIDENT JUAN VELASCO ALVARADO

1. FOREIGN OFFICE SECRETARY GENERAL LUIS MARCHAND CALLED ME IN TODAY (JANUARY 19) TO DISCUSS EXTRA-OFFICIALLY THE POSSIBILITY THAT WALTER REED WOULD RECEIVE EX-PRESIDENT VELASCO FOR EXAMINATION AND POSSIBLE TREATMENT AND READJUSTMENT OF ARTIFICIAL LEG. MARCHAND SAID THAT A TOP-LEVEL MEMBER (OR MEMBERS) OF GOP SUPPORTS THIS REQUEST BUT DOES NOT WISH TO MAKE IF OFFICIAL. HE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY POSSIBLE POLITICAL PROS AND CONS FROM US AS WELL AS GOP POINT OF VIEW AS WELL AS ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO HANDLE INVITATION SHOULD ONE BE EXTENDED. HE ASKED THAT I KEEP THIS DEMARCHE IN CONFIDENTIAL CHANNELS.

2. MY RESPONSE WAS THAT I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO FORWARD THIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON WITH MY FULL SUPPORT FOR ITS APPROVAL. I EXPRESSED MY VIEW THAT WASHINGTON WOULD SUPPORT RENEWAL OR EXTENSION OF INVITATION PREVIOUSLY MADE TO VELASCO TO GO TO WALTER REED BUT BELIEVED IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO GET A WASHINGTON READING BEFORE WORKING OUT ANY STRATEGY OR CHANNELS OR ARRANGMENTS. I RECALLED MY CONVERSATIONS OF EARLY 1974 WITH THEN CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT VELASCO ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT TO WASHINGTON

INCLUDING EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT AT WALTER REED.
I EXPRESSED MY BELIEF THAT THIS LATTER OFFER COULD WELL
BE RENEWED OR EXTENDED.

3. AS FAR AS PROCEDURES WERE CONCERNED, I EXPRESSED
MY VIEW THAT ANY RENEWED OFFER (ONCE DECIDED UPON)
WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED AT LEAST INFORMALLY WITH THE
GOP. PERHAPS THE BEST STRATEGY WOULD BE A REQUEST TO
ME FROM MRS. VELASCO OR A VELASCO SON TO WHICH I COULD
REPLY THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR IN CONSULTATION
WITH IT. I ASKED MARCHAND, IF APPROVAL IS GRANTED,
WHEN VELASCO WOULD BE READY TO GO TO WASHINGTON, AND
HE SAID ANYTIME. AS TO THE LENGTH OF A VELASCO VISIT,
MARCHAND SAID IT COULD BE A MATTER OF DAYS OR SEVERAL
WEEKS, DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION.

4. COMMENT: I RECOMMEND SUPPORT FOR THIS REQUEST FOR A
NUMBER OF REASONS, HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL. IT
WOULD INDEED BE THE CONTINUATION OR RENEWAL OF AN OFFER
WE HAVE MADE PREVIOUSLY SEVERAL TIMES. POLITICALLY, WE
MIGHT RECEIVE SOME FLAK FROM ELEMENTS OF THE OLIGARCHY,
BUT I BELIEVE THE MAJORITY OF OPINION LEADERS
ACROSS THE SPECTRUM COULD BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT AND SOME
TO APPLAUD THIS GESTURE, WHICH MIGHT ALSO SOFTEN SOME OF
THE ANTI-US ATTITUDES OF FORMER VELASCO SUPPORTERS. EVEN
THOUGH I RECEIVED THIS REQUEST FROM MARCHAND, I FEEL
CERTAIN THAT DE LA FLOR IS FULLY AWARE OF IT AND THAT IT
IS PROBABLY ALSO SUPPORTED BY OTHERS IN THE GOP, INCLUDING
PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ.
DEAN

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